

DRAFT

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Stephanie O'Keeffe (Chair), Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden (Clerk), Diana Stein, Gerald Weiss
Town Staff: Laurence Shaffer, Town Manager; John Musante, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director; Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller; David Ziomek, Director of Conservation and Planning; Stephanie Ciccarello, Wetlands Administrator.
Members of the Public: Larry Ely, Steve Randall, Rob Crowner, Bill Elsasser

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O'Keeffe at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ely, Mr. Randall and Mr. Crowner spoke support of maintaining rail service in Amherst and urged that the Town be more active in its advocacy for that. Mr. Elsasser spoke about recent issues at Not Bread Alone.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Clean Energy Grant Support

The Board agreed to sign a letter in support of a block grant proposal made by the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Collaborative. No vote was taken.

Audit Committee Report for Year Ending June 30, 2009

John Musante, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, and Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller, presented the FY08 audit results. The Board requested that the presentation materials be made available on the Town website.

FY09 3rd Quarter Budget Update

Mr. Musante distributed information to the Board and gave an update on the third budget quarter of FY 2009. The Board requested that the information be made available on the Town website.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Shaffer gave an update on the current status of the potential Swine Flu cases at Amherst College, and the Kendrick Park Committee.

Mr. Shaffer outlined some upcoming events he would be participating in including: attending the 40th Anniversary Benefit for A Better Chance on May 2, 2009; the Amherst Survival Center dunk tank fundraiser on May 2, 2009; and the Ride Buzz benefit concert on May 2, 2009 in Kendrick Park.

Mr. Shaffer reported that neighbors in the North Prospect Street area have hired private security for the next couple of weekends to deal with noisy people returning to their cars after bars close. The past weekend in Town was tough for public safety, as they responded to more than 260 calls on Friday and Saturday nights resulting in more than 60 arrests, and two injured police officers. The State Police are scheduled to help for next two weekends.

Saturday, April 25, 2009 was Exrtavaganja; this was a big event however no problems were reported. Those in attendance were well-behaved and Common was left clean.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the Waxman Funds Distribution proposal was awaiting recommendation from the Committee on Homelessness before it comes before the Board.

Member Reports

The Board decided to postpone consideration of revisions to the Appointed Committee Handbook until after the conclusion of Annual Town Meeting. It was also requested that each Board member would give an update on the progress of posting agendas and minutes on the web for the boards and committees they are assigned to, and communicate with each board appropriately.

Mr. Weiss gave updates on the Council on Aging and their "Stay Put" program. In addition, Mr. Weiss spoke about the Disability Access Advisory Committee's (DAAC) issues regarding the accessibility of Amherst train station. Another topic of discussion from the DAAC was towing from handicapped spaces in private lots, and Mr. Weiss indicated that a bylaw may come before Fall Town Meeting that would address that issue.

Ms. Stein stated that the Local Historic District Study Committee is seeking SB and staff liaisons; and that the Agricultural Commission is inquiring about the notification to Realtors, as described in the "Right to Farm" bylaw passed last year.

Ms. Brewer announced that the 250th Celebration Committee will hold a benefit on Cruise Night at Atkins on June 1, 2009; Ms Brewer was asked to provide additional information on how the Select Board will be participating the Town of Hadley's 350th Celebration Parade.

Ms. O'Keeffe announced that the Public Transportation & Bicycle Committee is indexing existing downtown bike parking and has made recommendations to Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works for more spaces, per last year's Select Board request. Ms. O'Keeffe stated that the Town Commercial Relations Committee is compiling info about the Town's handling of business issues and will report said issues to the Select Board in future. Additionally, Ms. O'Keeffe spoke about the Campus and Community Coalition - Retail Partners Group looking at best practices to prevent selling alcohol to minors in bars and package stores; Amherst Police Department Captain Mike Kent and UMass Police Department Deputy Chief Patrick Archbald speak at conferences nationally about the collaboration between the Town and University regarding student behavior.

Discussion of Meeting Plans During Town Meeting

It was agreed that Select Board meetings taking place prior to Town Meeting Sessions would be scheduled for 45-50 minutes, and would not include a public comment period; concerns from the public may be scheduled as agenda items, with advance notice. Additionally, the need for meeting before every Town Meeting session was discussed, and should Town Meeting not meet on a particular date, the Select Board would still meet as scheduled on Monday evenings at Town Hall, but any non-Monday meetings would be cancelled.

Chair's Report

Ms. O'Keeffe provided update on Leverett Town Meeting's vote in support of a Level 1 budget for the Regional Schools. Ms. O'Keeffe announced that officials from the Four Towns are invited to the April 28, 2009 Regional School Committee meeting for further budget discussion and information. Additionally, she spoke to a student news reporter at UMass regarding the Four Unrelated Persons bylaw enforcement, and reported recent attendance by herself, Ms. Brewer and Ms. Stein at the recent Hadley Founder's Day Celebration.

Raise Fines/Bus Stop Violations

A request was placed by the Office of the Collector to raise the fines for parking in a designated bus stop to \$100 which is the maximum amount allowed by Massachusetts General Law.

VOTED unanimously, that the Select Board, consistent with MGL as amended by 2008, 465, Sec. 1 effective April 7, 2009, hereby establishes the fine for the violation of parking in a designated bus stop to be \$100.00 per offense, said fine to be incorporated into the Town of Amherst Parking Violation fee schedule, effective May 30, 2009.

Personnel Proposal

This item was postponed to a later date.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Taxi Business License – Frank Orlando, Jr.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the new Taxi Driver's License for Frank P. Orlando, Jr., 96 Pleasant Street, #30, Northampton, MA.

Taxi Business License – Monique Santos

VOTED unanimously, to approve the new Taxi Driver's License for Monique Santos, 119A Brittany Manor Drive, Amherst, MA.

Special Wine & Malt Liquor License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for May 2, 2009 at the Renaissance Center for a dinner.

WARRANT ARTICLES

May 4, 2009 Annual Town Meeting Articles

Article 19 – CPAC Open Space - Johnson

VOTED: O'Keeffe, Brewer, Hayden, Stein "Aye", Weiss abstained to recommend Article 20 – CPAC Open Space – Johnson; Mr. Hayden will speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

Article 20 – CPAC Open Space - Olendzki

VOTED: O'Keeffe, Brewer, Hayden, Stein "Aye", Weiss abstained, to recommend Article 19 – CPAC Open Space – Olendzki; Mr. Hayden will speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

Article 22 – FY10 Operating Budget

The Board agreed to defer its recommendation to a later date, as there was not enough information to take an official position at this time.

Article 24 – Reserve Fund

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 24 – Reserve Fund in the amount of \$100,000; Ms. Stein will speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

Article 25 – Capital Program – Chapter 90

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 25 – Capital Program – Chapter 90 in the amount of \$670,000; Mr. Weiss will speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

Article 26 – Capital Program – Buildings & Facilities

The Board agreed to defer its recommendation to a later date, as there was not enough information to take an official position at this time.

Article 27 – Capital Program – Equipment

The Board agreed to defer its recommendation to a later date, as there was not enough information to take an official position at this time.

Article 29 – Free Cash

The Board agreed to defer its recommendation to a later date, as there was not enough information to take an official position at this time.

Article 30 – Stabilization

The Board agreed to defer its recommendation to a later date, as there was not enough information to take an official position at this time

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 10:09 p.m.